

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-52, so that claims 53-70 remain pending for this divisional application as follows:

- 1 53. (Original) A method of processing laundry which comprises the steps of:
- 2 (a) washing a first load of laundry with a detergent in at least one wash
- 3 vessel to produce a first clean load of laundry and a first wash effluent;
- 4 (b) passing the first wash effluent through at least one wash filter,
- 5 producing a first wash permeate and a first wash retentate; and
- 6 (c) rinsing the first clean load of laundry to produce a first rinsed load of
- 7 laundry and a first rinse effluent.
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- 1 54. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
- 2 (d) washing a second load of laundry using in part at least a portion of the
- 3 first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to produce a second
- 4 clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;
- 5 (e) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter,
- 6 producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate; and
- 7 (f) rinsing the second clean load of laundry to produce a second rinsed
- 8 load of laundry and a second rinse effluent.
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- 1 55. (Original) The method of claim 53 which further comprises the step of:
- 2 (d) passing at least a portion of the first rinse effluent through at least one
- 3 rinse filter to produce a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate.
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- 1 56. (Original) The method of claim 54 which further comprises the step of:

2 (g) passing at least a portion of the second rinse effluent through the at
3 least one rinse filter to produce a second rinse permeate and a second
4 rinse retentate.

1 57. (Original) The method of Claim 54 wherein Step (f) is accomplished in part
2 by using at least a portion of the first rinse permeate.

1 58. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:

2 (d) passing the first rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter,

3 producing a first rinse permeate and a first rinse retentate;

4 (e) washing a second load of laundry with the detergent and in part at least

5 a portion of the first wash permeate in the at least one wash vessel to

6 produce a second clean load of laundry and a second wash effluent;

7 (f) passing the second wash effluent through the at least one wash filter,

8 producing a second wash permeate and a second wash retentate;

9 (g) rinsing the second clean load of laundry with in part at least a portion

10 of the first rinse permeate to produce a second rinsed load of laundry

11 and a second rinse effluent; and

12 (h) passing the second rinse effluent through the at least one rinse filter to

13 produce a second rinse permeate and a second rinse retentate.

1 59. (Original) The method of Claim 54 wherein between about 30% and about

2 90% of the washing in Step (d) is accomplished with first wash permeate.

1 60. (Original) The method of Claim 57 wherein between about 30% and about
2 90% of the rinsing in Step (f) is accomplished with first rinse permeate.

1 61. (Original) The method of Claim 58 wherein between about 30% and about
2 90% of the washing in Step (e) is accomplished with first wash permeate and between
3 about 30% and about 90% of the rinsing in Step (g) is accomplished with first rinse
4 permeate.

1 62. (Original) The method of Claim 55 which further comprises the step of:
2 (e) transferring at least a portion of the first rinse retentate to the first wash
3 effluent.

1 63. (Original) The method of Claim 56 which further comprises the step of:
2 (h) transferring at least a portion of the second rinse retentate to the second
3 wash effluent.

1 64. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the step of
2 repeating Steps (e)-(h) at least once on additional loads of laundry.

1 65. (Original) The method of Claim 64 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry
2 are processed.

1 66. (Original) The method of Claim 53 wherein the method is steady state.

1 67. (Original) The method of Claim 64 wherein the method is steady state.

1 68. (Original) The method of Claim 53 which further comprises the steps of:
2 (d) passing a previous rinse effluent through at least one rinse filter,
3 producing a previous rinse permeate and a previous rinse retentate;
4 (e) washing a subsequent load of laundry with the detergent and in part at
5 least a portion of a previous wash permeate in the at least one wash
6 vessel to produce a subsequent clean load of laundry and a subsequent
7 wash effluent;
8 (f) passing the subsequent wash effluent through the at least one wash
9 filter, producing a subsequent wash permeate and a subsequent wash
10 retentate; and
11 (g) rinsing the subsequent clean load of laundry with in part at least a
12 portion of the previous rinse permeate to produce a subsequent rinsed
13 load of laundry and a subsequent rinse effluent;
14 (h) repeating Steps (d)-(g) at least once;
15 wherein the previous rinse effluent is the second rinse effluent prior to Step
16 (h) and the previous wash permeate is the first wash permeate prior to Step
17 (h).

1 69. (Original) The method of Claim 66 wherein up to about nine loads of laundry
2 are processed.

1 70. (Original) The method of Claim 68 wherein the method is steady state.